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Letter dated 24 August 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 24 August 2001, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 24 August 2001 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 July 2001), there were just over 19,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to ensure a safe and secure environment throughout the area and provided a significant presence during various religious ceremonies and commemorations that were held in July.

3. In particular, SFOR supported local police and the International Police Task Force (IPTF) at the Srebrenica observance ceremony on 11 July at Potocari. Six thousand people attended the ceremony, 3,000 of whom had crossed the inter-entity boundary line to reach the site where the separation of families had taken place. Local police will provide security for the new Srebrenica memorial. On 12 July, Bratunac war veterans held a ceremony in Kravica for the Bosnian Serbs who died there. On 14, 21 and 22 July, SFOR was deployed nearby to Bosansca Gradisca, Brdjani, Trnopolje and Paleznica Gornja in support of local police forces during either opening or stone-laying ceremonies for some mosques and a church. All gatherings took place peacefully.

4. SFOR also provided support to the International Community for Missing People (ICMP) during exhumations in the areas of Foca, Sarajevo Pale, Gorazde, Visegrad, Ravnice and Ozren.

5. Attacks made against SFOR during the reporting period included a threat made with a hand grenade to SFOR soldiers in Kula Grad by an Albanian male, who was handed over to the local police, and four shots fired at an SFOR vehicle travelling in a convoy near Medna in the Republika Srpska.

6. In other incidents, two men with long-barrelled weapons were seen firing into the air near the SFOR Butmir Base; the men escaped. There was also a gun and grenade attack on the Bosnian Serb Koran Barracks in Pale, where a weapons warehouse was broken into.

7. SFOR troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations using ground and air patrols. Other operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

8. The situation in theatre remained relatively calm throughout the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The majority of Bosnian Croat troops have returned to barracks and are under new contracts. Although a small number of troops remain loyal to the Bosnian Croat HNS/HDZ (Croat National Assembly/Croatian Democratic Union), there have been no reports of any friction within the Bosnian Croat forces.

9. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 109 weapons storage site inspections: 33 Bosnian Serb; 17 Bosniac; 15 Bosnian Croat; 40 Federation; and 4 Federation Army Department. Inspection and verification of weapons storage sites remains one of SFOR's priority tasks.

10. SFOR troops monitored 408 training and movement activities: 209 Bosnian Serb; 103 Bosniac; 76 Federation; and 20 Federation Army Department.

11. Over the period, a total of 483 mine-clearing activities were conducted: 197 Bosnian Serb; 226 Bosniac; 2 Bosnian Croat; and 58 Federation.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPTF, the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

13. SFOR continues to support the efforts of the OHR to establish common institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to protect the OHR Administrator of the Hercegovacka Banka in Mostar and to assist in the effort to open airfields. SFOR continues to assist the local police and IPTF in monitoring the situation in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja.

Outlook

14. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains under control. Rising tension among ethnic groups following the return of refugees and displaced persons will continue to be of concern. The most significant forthcoming event is the HDZ congress planned for 15 August and the related campaign to give more publicity to the so-called "third entity" issue.